

**YAQUI CHUB**  
**(*Gila purpurea*)**

**STATUS:** Endangered with critical habitat (49 FR 34490, August 31, 1984).

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized minnow (adults rarely exceed 15 cm (6 in) long) that is darkly colored, but usually lighter below. Its most pronounced feature is a dark triangular caudal spot.

**HABITAT:** Inhabits deeper pools of small streams near undercut banks and debris between 1,219 - 1,828 m (4,000 - 6,000 ft) elevation. Is also found in pools associated with springheads. Also occurs in artificial ponds.

**RANGE: Historic:** Once found throughout the Rio Yaqui Drainage in Cochise County in extreme southeastern Arizona, including San Bernardino Creek (Blackwater Draw), Whitewater Creek, Black Wash (Astin Wash), and the Morse Canyon portion of the Willcox Playa. It was also found in San Bernardino Creek in Sonora, Mexico.

**Current:** Extirpated from its historic habitat; however, introduced populations exist in Leslie Canyon in the Swisshelm Mountains, in San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, and in ponds and the mainstream of West Turkey Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Habitat destruction and modification and interactions with introduced fish species.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, private lands.

**NOTES:** A Rio Yaqui Fishes Recovery Plan, which included the Yaqui chub, was completed in March 1995. A copy of the Recovery Plan is posted online at:  
<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/YaquiFishes.pdf>

Critical habitat includes all aquatic habitats in the main portion of San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge in Cochise County, Arizona.

Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.